

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE**  
**SENATE LABOR AND COMMERCE STANDING COMMITTEE**

February 17, 2021

1:33 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Senator Mia Costello, Chair  
Senator Roger Holland, Vice Chair  
Senator Joshua Revak  
Senator Gary Stevens  
Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

All members present.

**COMMITTEE CALENDAR**

SENATE BILL NO. 24

"An Act authorizing virtual meetings of shareholders of a corporation; and authorizing virtual meetings of members of a nonprofit corporation."

- MOVED CSSB 24(L&C) OUT OF COMMITTEE

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION**

BILL: SB 24

SHORT TITLE: VIRTUAL MEETINGS FOR CORPORATIONS

SPONSOR(S): SENATOR(S) WILSON

01/22/21	(S)	PREFILE RELEASED 1/8/21
01/22/21	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/22/21	(S)	L&C
02/08/21	(S)	L&C AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
02/08/21	(S)	Heard & Held
02/08/21	(S)	MINUTE(L&C)
02/17/21	(S)	L&C AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)

**WITNESS REGISTER**

BONNIE PASKVAN, Partner  
Dorsey & Whitney LLP  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of SB 24.

ERROL CHAMPION  
Alaska Realtors  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of SB 24.

SENATOR DAVID WILSON  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Sponsor of SB 24.

JASMIN MARTIN, Staff  
Senator David Wilson  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Described Amendment 1 for SB 24 on behalf of the sponsor.

## **ACTION NARRATIVE**

[1:33:03 PM](#)

**CHAIR MIA COSTELLO** called the Senate Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. Present at call to order were Senators Gray-Jackson, Holland, Revak, Stevens, and Chair Costello.

### **SB 24-VIRTUAL MEETINGS FOR CORPORATIONS**

[1:33:43 PM](#)

**CHAIR COSTELLO** announced the consideration of SENATE BILL NO. 24, "An Act authorizing virtual meetings of shareholders of a corporation; and authorizing virtual meetings of members of a nonprofit corporation."

Noting that public testimony was still open, Chair Costello asked Ms. Paskvan to provide her testimony.

[1:34:20 PM](#)

**BONNIE PASKVAN**, Partner, Dorsey & Whitney LLP, Anchorage, Alaska, stated that she and her partners have been working to effect permanent change to the Alaska Corporations Code. The requested changes are to allow corporations, nonprofits, and Alaska Native corporations to hold annual and special meetings

in person, virtually, or a hybrid. She directed attention to the letter from the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Regional Association stating unanimous support for SB 24 on behalf of the 12 regional land-based Native corporations.

MS. PASKVAN highlighted that Alaska is one of just nine states that require in-person annual shareholder meetings. She said passing SB 24 will give corporations the right to hold shareholder and special meetings in person, virtually, or a hybrid. She noted that in some instances this will help corporations to meet quorum requirements. This will also make meetings more accessible to shareholders, particularly those who cannot afford the time or expense to attend annual shareholder meetings in person. She said most corporations are not expected to stop holding in-person meetings, but this provides a tool in the corporate toolkit that provides flexibility.

MS. PASKVAN concluded, "We consider SB 24 to be a small modernization effort to allow Alaska corporations to operate in this challenging new environment and to bring our state into the current century."

[1:38:47 PM](#)

SENATOR STEVENS asked what safeguards would be implemented to ensure safety and security and that someone has not illegally accessed the voting system.

MS. PASKVAN pointed out that corporations in the Lower 48 have been holding remote and hybrid meetings for decades. The software companies that have made this possible will provide the same support and security for Alaska corporations. She noted that most Alaska Native corporations she is aware of already allow electronic proxy voting. A special pin is given to each shareholder so they can vote electronically. SB 24 will allow Alaska to catch up with what is already being done safely in the rest of the world, she said.

[1:40:23 PM](#)

ERROL CHAMPION, Realtor, Legislative Issues Committee, Alaska Realtors, Juneau, Alaska, said the Alaska Realtors was working hard on the virtual meetings legislation last year and their support extends to SB 24. If the bill becomes law, corporations and most nonprofits will benefit.

[1:41:12 PM](#)

CHAIR COSTELLO closed public testimony on SB 24. She solicited a motion to adopt Amendment 1.

1:41:24 PM

SENATOR STEVENS moved Amendment 1, [work order 32-LS0213\A.3].

32-LS0213\A.3

Bannister

2/15/21

**AMENDMENT 1**

OFFERED IN THE SENATE

TO: SB 24

Page 1, lines 1 - 2:

Delete all material and insert:

**"An Act relating to holding corporate meetings by remote communication; allowing voting by remote communication at corporate meetings; making shareholder lists available electronically; relating to for-profit and nonprofit corporations; relating to business and industrial development corporations; relating to Native corporations; relating to the Alaska Banking Code; and providing for an effective date."**

Page 1, line 4, through page 2, line 15:

Delete all material and insert:

**"\* Section 1.** AS 10.06.223 is amended to read:

**Sec. 10.06.223. Organizational meeting.** After the commencement of corporate existence by the issuance of a certificate of incorporation, an organizational meeting of either the incorporators or the board of directors named in the articles of incorporation shall be held [, EITHER INSIDE OR OUTSIDE THE STATE,] at the call of a majority of the incorporators or directors named in the articles of incorporation [,] for the purpose of adopting bylaws, electing directors if none have been named in the articles, electing officers, and transacting such other business as may come before the meeting. The organizational meeting may be held at a designated place, by remote communication, or at a designated place and by remote communication. The designated place may be inside or outside the state. Those calling the meeting shall give at least 20 days' [DAYS] notice of the meeting by mail to each incorporator or director named. The notice shall state the time and place, if the meeting is to be held at a designated place, of the

meeting, and whether the meeting will also be held by remote communication.

\* **Sec. 2.** AS 10.06.230(e) is amended to read:

(e) The bylaws may contain any provision, not in conflict with law or the articles of incorporation, for the management of the business of the corporation and for the conduct of the affairs of the corporation, including [BUT NOT LIMITED TO,]

(1) a provision referred to in AS 10.06.210(2), (3), or (4);

(2) the time, for meetings held at a designated place, the place, and the manner, including by remote communication, of calling, conducting, and giving notice of meetings of shareholders, directors, and committees;

(3) the manner of execution, revocation, and use of proxies;

(4) the qualifications, duties, and compensation of directors; the time of their annual election; and the requirements of a quorum for directors' and committee meetings;

(5) the appointment and authority of committees of the board;

(6) the appointment, duties, compensation, and tenure of officers;

(7) the mode of determination of holders of record of the shares of the corporation;

(8) the making of annual reports and financial statements to the shareholders.

\* **Sec. 3.** AS 10.06.405(a) is amended to read:

(a) Meetings of shareholders shall be held at a place inside or outside the [THIS] state, by remote communication, or at a place inside or outside the state and by remote communication, as provided in the bylaws. In the absence of a provision in the bylaws, meetings shall be held at the direction of the board or at the registered office of the corporation.

\* **Sec. 4.** AS 10.06.405(b) is amended to read:

(b) An annual meeting of the shareholders shall be held at the time as provided in the bylaws or, if the bylaws do not set a time, at a time determined by the board. If the annual meeting is not held within any 13-month period, the superior court may on the application of a shareholder summarily order a meeting to be held.

\* **Sec. 5.** AS 10.06.410(a) is amended to read:

(a) Written or printed notice stating the place, if the meeting will be held at a designated place, the manner, including holding the meeting by remote communication, the

day, and the hour of the meeting, and, in the case of a special meeting, the purpose for which the meeting is called, shall be delivered not less than 20 or more than 60 days before the date of the meeting, either personally, by mail, or by electronic transmission under (b) of this section, by or at the direction of the president, the secretary, the officer, or persons calling the meeting, to each shareholder of record entitled to vote at the meeting. If mailed, the notice is considered delivered when deposited with postage prepaid in the United States mail addressed to the shareholder at the address of the shareholder as it appears on the stock transfer books of the corporation, or, if the shareholder has filed with the secretary of the corporation a written request that notice be mailed to a different address, addressed to the shareholder at the new address. An affidavit of the secretary or other person giving the notice or of a transfer agent of the corporation that the notice required by this section has been given is prima facie evidence of the facts stated in the affidavit. If attendance of the meeting by remote communication is permitted, the notice must state the method of remote communication by which a shareholder or a proxy holder is considered present in person at the meeting and by which the shareholder or proxy holder may vote.

\* **Sec. 6.** AS 10.06.413(a) is amended to read:

(a) At least 20 days before each meeting of shareholders, the officer or agent having charge of the stock transfer books for shares of a corporation shall make a list of the shareholders entitled to vote at the meeting or an adjournment of the meeting arranged in alphabetical order, with the address of and the number of shares held by each shareholder. The list shall be kept on file at the registered office of the corporation and is subject to inspection by a shareholder or the agent or attorney of a shareholder at any time during usual business hours for a period of 20 days before the meeting. The list shall also be produced and kept open at the time and place of the meeting and [SHALL BE] subject to the inspection of a shareholder during the meeting, or the list shall be kept available for the meeting on a reasonably accessible electronic network where the information required to gain access to the list is provided with the notice of the meeting. If the corporation makes the list available on an electronic network, the corporation may take reasonable steps to ensure that the information is available only to shareholders of the corporation. The original stock

transfer books are prima facie evidence as to the shareholders who are entitled to examine the list or transfer books or to vote at a meeting of shareholders.

\* **Sec. 7.** AS 10.06.415(a) is amended to read:

(a) Unless otherwise provided in the articles of incorporation, a majority of the shares entitled to vote, represented in person, by remote communication, or by proxy, constitutes a quorum at a meeting of shareholders, but in no event may a quorum consist of less than one-third of the shares entitled to vote at the meeting. If a quorum is present, the affirmative vote of the majority of shares represented at the meeting and entitled to vote on the subject matter is the act of the shareholders, unless the vote of a greater number or voting by classes is required by this chapter, the articles of incorporation, or the bylaws.

\* **Sec. 8.** AS 10.06.418(b) is amended to read:

(b) A proxy is not valid after the expiration of 11 months from the date of the proxy unless it qualifies as an irrevocable proxy under (e) of this section. A proxy continues in full force and effect until revoked by the person executing it, except as provided in this section. A person may revoke a proxy by a writing delivered to the corporation stating that the proxy is revoked, by a subsequent proxy executed by the person executing the prior proxy and delivered to the corporation, or by attendance at the meeting and voting in person, or by remote communication, by the person executing the proxy. The dates contained on the forms of proxy presumptively determine the order of execution, regardless of the postmark dates on the envelopes in which the proxies are mailed.

\* **Sec. 9.** AS 10.06.420(c) is amended to read:

(c) A shareholder may vote in person, by remote communication, by proxy executed in writing by the shareholder or by the authorized attorney-in-fact of the shareholder, or by proxy executed by electronic transmission by the shareholder or by the authorized attorney-in-fact of the shareholder. A proxy executed by electronic transmission must

(1) be directed to the person who will be the holder of the proxy or to a proxy solicitation firm, proxy support service organization, or similar agent that is authorized by the person who will be the holder of the proxy to receive the transmission; and

(2) include information that demonstrates that the shareholder authorized the transmission.

\* **Sec. 10.** AS 10.06.420(d) is amended to read:

(d) Unless the articles of incorporation provide otherwise, at an election for directors, each shareholder entitled to vote at the election may vote, in person, by remote communication, or by proxy, the number of shares owned by the shareholder for as many persons as there are directors to be elected and for whose election the shareholder has a right to vote, or to cumulate votes by giving one candidate votes equal to the number of directors multiplied by the number of shares of the shareholder, or by distributing votes on the same principle among any number of candidates. The rights created by this subsection may not be limited by amendment to the articles when the votes cast against the amendment would be sufficient to elect one director if voted cumulatively at an election of the entire board.

- \* **Sec. 11.** AS 10.06.420(f) is amended to read:

(f) Shares held by an administrator, executor, guardian, or conservator may be voted by that person, [EITHER] in person, by remote communication, or by proxy, without a transfer of the shares into the name of that person. Shares standing in the name of a trustee may be voted by the trustee, [EITHER] in person, by remote communication, or by proxy, but a trustee is not entitled to vote shares held by the trustee without a transfer of the shares into the name of the trustee.

- \* **Sec. 12.** AS 10.06.420(j) is amended to read:

(j) If a corporation adopts rules to provide for voting by proxy executed by electronic transmission or by a ballot cast by electronic transmission, the rules must provide that all legally qualified proxies and ballots cast by electronic transmission may be voted in the same manner as the corporation's proxy or ballot.

- \* **Sec. 13.** AS 10.06.420 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(k) The board may permit shareholders and shareholders' proxy holders to participate in meetings of the shareholders by remote communication using one or more methods of remote communication, whether the meetings are held at a designated place, by remote communication, or at a designated place and by remote communication. The board may adopt guidelines and procedures that apply to participation in shareholder meetings by remote communication and that the board considers appropriate. The board may limit participation to specified locations or means of communication. A shareholder participating in a meeting by remote communication permitted by the board is considered to be present in person at the meeting.



\* **Sec. 14.** AS 10.06.470(a) is amended to read:

(a) A regular or special meeting of the board or a committee of the board may be called by the chair [CHAIRMAN] of the board, the president, a vice-president, the secretary, or a director and may be held at any place designated under the bylaws inside or outside the [THIS] state, by remote communication, or at a designated place inside or outside the state and by remote communication. A member of the board or of a committee of the board participating in a meeting by remote communication is considered to be present in person at the meeting for the purposes of reaching a quorum under AS 10.06.473 and for voting at the meeting.

\* **Sec. 15.** AS 10.06.960(n) is amended to read:

(n) Notwithstanding AS 10.06.504(d), an amendment to the articles of incorporation of a corporation organized under 43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq. (Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act) and incorporated under former AS 10.05.005 to add a provision eliminating or limiting the personal liability of a director to the corporation or its stockholders for monetary damages under AS 10.06.210(1)(M) may be adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares represented at the regular or special meeting at which a quorum is present in person, [OR] by proxy, or by remote communication.

\* **Sec. 16.** AS 10.06.960(o) is amended to read:

(o) Notwithstanding AS 10.06.455(b) and 10.06.504(d), an amendment to the articles of incorporation of a village corporation organized under 43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq. (Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act) and incorporated under former AS 10.05.005 to add a provision authorizing the classification of directors under AS 10.06.455 may be adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares represented at a regular or special meeting at which a quorum is present in person, [OR] by proxy, or by remote communication.

\* **Sec. 17.** AS 10.06.960(p) is amended to read:

(p) Notwithstanding AS 10.06.504(d), a Native corporation incorporated under former AS 10.05 before July 1, 1989, may amend its articles under this subsection to reduce the quorum necessary to hold a meeting of shareholders to one-third of the outstanding shares entitled to vote at a meeting, represented in person, by remote communication, or by proxy. An amendment under this subsection is approved if it receives an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the shares represented in person, by remote communication, or by proxy at an annual meeting. The

Native corporation may not use the reduced quorum established under this subsection to adopt other amendments of the articles or to adopt resolutions to which 43 U.S.C. 1629b applies. AS 10.06.504(d) continues to apply to the adoption of other amendments of the articles.

\* **Sec. 18.** AS 10.06.990 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

(51) "remote communication" means communication by means of electronic communication, conference telephone, videoconference, the Internet, electronic transmission, or other means by which persons not physically present in the same location may communicate with each other on a substantially simultaneous basis.

\* **Sec. 19.** AS 10.10.100(b) is amended to read:

(b) Each stockholder shall have one vote, in person, by remote communication, or by proxy, for each share of capital stock held by that stockholder, and each member shall have one vote, in person, by remote communication, or by proxy, except that a member having a loan limit of more than \$1,000 shall have one additional vote, in person, by remote communication, or by proxy, for each additional \$1,000 which the member is authorized to have outstanding on loans to the corporation at any one time as determined under AS 10.10.070(a)(3)(B).

\* **Sec. 20.** AS 10.10.100 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

(c) A proxy may be executed in writing by a stockholder or by the authorized attorney-in-fact of the stockholder, or executed by electronic transmission by the stockholder or by the authorized attorney-in-fact of the stockholder. A proxy executed by electronic transmission must

(1) be directed to the person who will be the holder of the proxy or to a proxy solicitation person, including a proxy support service organization or similar agent that is authorized by the person who will be the holder of the proxy to receive the transmission; and

(2) include information that demonstrates that the stockholder authorized the transmission.

(d) In this section, "electronic transmission" and "remote communication" have the meanings given in AS 10.06.990.

\* **Sec. 21.** AS 10.20.066 is amended to read:

**Sec. 10.20.066. Notice of meetings.** Unless otherwise provided in the articles of incorporation or bylaws, written notice stating the manner, place, if the meeting is to be held at a designated place, day, and hour of the

meeting, and, in case of a special meeting, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called, shall be delivered not less than 10 nor more than 50 days before the date of the meeting, either personally or by mail, by or at the direction of the president, or the secretary, or the officers or persons calling the meeting, to each member entitled to vote at the meeting. If mailed, the notice shall be considered to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail addressed to the member at the member's address as it appears on the records of the corporation, with postage prepaid.

- \* **Sec. 22.** AS 10.20.071(b) is amended to read:

(b) A member entitled to vote may vote in person or, unless the articles of incorporation or the bylaws otherwise provide, may vote by remote communication, proxy executed in writing by the member or by the attorney-in-fact for the member, or by proxy executed by electronic transmission by the member or by the authorized attorney-in-fact of the member. A proxy is not valid after 11 months from the date of its execution, unless otherwise provided in the proxy. If directors or officers are to be elected by members, the bylaws may provide that the elections may be conducted by mail.

- \* **Sec. 23.** AS 10.20.071(e) is amended to read:

(e) The articles of incorporation or the bylaws may provide the number or percentage of members entitled to vote represented in person, by remote communication, or by proxy, or the number or percentage of votes represented in person, by remote communication, or by proxy, which constitute a quorum at a meeting of members. In the absence of any such provision, members holding one-tenth of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter to be voted on [UPON] represented in person, by remote communication, or by proxy constitute a quorum. A majority of the votes entitled to be cast on a matter to be voted on [UPON] by the members present or represented by proxy at a meeting at which the quorum is present is necessary for adoption unless a greater proportion is required by this chapter, the articles of incorporation or the bylaws.

- \* **Sec. 24.** AS 10.20.071 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

(f) A proxy executed by electronic transmission must

(1) be directed to the person who will be the holder of the proxy or to a proxy solicitation person, including a proxy support service organization or similar agent that is authorized by the person who will be the holder of the proxy to receive the transmission; and

(2) include information that demonstrates that the stockholder authorized the transmission.

(g) In this section, "electronic transmission" has the meaning given in AS 10.06.990.

\* **Sec. 25.** AS 10.20.076 is amended to read:

**Sec. 10.20.076. Quorum of members.** Unless otherwise provided in the articles of incorporation or the bylaws, members holding one-tenth of the votes entitled to be cast, represented in person, by remote communication, or by proxy, constitute a quorum at a meeting of members. However, in no event may a quorum consist of less than one-tenth of the votes entitled to vote at a meeting. If a quorum is present, the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes represented at the meeting and entitled to vote on the subject matter is the act of the members, unless the vote of a greater number is required by this chapter or the articles of incorporation or the bylaws.

\* **Sec. 26.** AS 10.20.116(a) is amended to read:

(a) Regular or special meetings of the board of directors may be held at a designated place, by remote communication, or at a designated place and by remote communication. The designated place may be [EITHER] inside or outside the state.

\* **Sec. 27.** AS 10.20.166(a) is amended to read:

(a) After the issuance of the certificate of incorporation an organizational meeting of the board of directors named in the articles of incorporation shall be held at a designated place, by remote communication, or at a designated place and by remote communication [, EITHER INSIDE OR OUTSIDE THE STATE,] at the call of a majority of the incorporators, for the purpose of adopting bylaws, electing officers, and the transaction of other business as may come before the meeting. The designated place may be inside or outside the state. The incorporators calling the meeting shall give at least three days' notice of the meeting by mail to each director named, and the notice must [WHICH SHALL] state the time and place of the meeting.

\* **Sec. 28.** AS 10.20.920 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

(10) "remote communication" has the meaning given in AS 10.06.990.

\* **Sec. 29.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

SAVING CLAUSE. This Act does not affect

(1) a court action or court proceeding begun before the effective date of this Act; or

(2) a right accrued before the effective date of this Act.

\* **Sec. 30.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

RETROACTIVITY. This Act is retroactive to March 11, 2020.

\* **Sec. 31.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c)."

[1:41:35 PM](#)

CHAIR COSTELLO objected for discussion purposes.

[1:41:42 PM](#)

SENATOR DAVID WILSON Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, sponsor of SB 24, directed attention to the lengthy amendment summary in the packets and advised that Ms. Martin would further summarize the amendment.

[1:42:10 PM](#)

JASMIN MARTIN, Staff, Senator Wilson, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, explained that Amendment 1, work order 32-LS0213\A.3, defines "remote communication" and the aspects of corporate governance that can be conducted by remote communication. It also adds "remote communication" throughout Title 10, includes businesses organized under the Business and Industrial Development Corporations Act, adds an immediate effective date, and adds a retroactivity date so the organizations that amended their bylaws to allow remote meetings during the emergency disaster do not need to reamend their bylaws. She noted that SB 24 is optional; it only affects organizations that adopt these changes in their bylaws.

[1:43:51 PM](#)

CHAIR COSTELLO said it is important for the record to reflect that SB 24 is not a mandate. The bill is responding to the current environment so a corporation may choose to change their bylaws to conduct business online.

[1:44:33 PM](#)

SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON commented that this bill is much needed and an advancement into the current century.

[1:44:57 PM](#)

CHAIR COSTELLO removed her objection and AM 1 was adopted.

[1:45:13 PM](#)

SENATOR WILSON thanked the people who testified and those who reached out to his office encouraging this much-needed innovation.

[1:45:41 PM](#)

At ease

[1:46:07 PM](#)

CHAIR COSTELLO reconvened the meeting and solicited a motion.

[1:46:16 PM](#)

SENATOR HOLLAND moved to report SB 24, as amended, from committee with individual recommendations and attached fiscal note(s).

CHAIR COSTELLO found no objection and CSSB 24(L&C) was reported from the Senate Labor and Commerce Standing Committee.

[1:46:55 PM](#)

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Costello adjourned the Senate Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting at 1:46 p.m.